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RUMANIAN SALT FOR POISON-GAS PRODUCTION

Since 1944, the Soviet Union has been receiving increasingly large shipments of salt from Rumania. It is estimated that 3,500,000 tons of salt have been shipped already to Soviet factories. The exploitation of the salt mines in the Carpathian Mountains reached its peak during the last 5 months. Trains loaded with salt blocks from Rumania have been observed at the Black Sea ports and at the border stations of the USSR, Poland, and East Germany.

The prevalent opinion in Bucharest is that the salt is primarily for use in the chemical plants of the above countries to produce war gases.

Experts estimate the salt reserves of 11 major salt deposits in Rumania and Transylvania at 16 billion tons. The reserves of nine of the deposits are estimated as follows (in tons):

Slanic	12,000,000,000
Praid	900,000,000
Turda	850,000,000
oetid be	330,000,000
Ocnele-Mari	330,000,000
Ocna-Sibiu	100,000,000
Ocna-Sugatag	20,000,000
Costiu	22,000,000
Cacica	11,300,000

There are about 200 additional salt deposits which have not been fully developed up to now.

The output of the 'll major salt mines in 1939 was 400,000 tons, of which 230 tons were used within Rumania. -- From a diplomatic report

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